POLITICAL HISTORY: HUNG WU

Chu Yuan-chang spent most of his reign in completing the conquest of China, in seeking to extend his power to neighboring lands, and in putting the machinery of government into good working order. He is usually best known as Hung Wu, the name (or *nien hao)* by which the period of his reign is designated.

The expulsion of the Mongols from Cambaluc and the proclamation of the new dynasty were soon followed by the acknowledgment of the authority of the Ming by the remainder of China. Hsu Ta, the general who had taken Cambaluc for Hung Wu, reduced Shansi, Shensi, and Kansu. Szechwan, where an independent principality had been set up by an adventurer, was brought under the control of the Ming. By the end of 1382 Yunnan had succumbed: Hung Wu finally suppressed the power of the family which for over four centuries had ruled there as independent princes or as governors under the Emperor.

Several outlying territories were also induced to recognize the Ming. The southern portion of what is now Manchuria made its submission. Under Hung Wu's successors, it may be added, most of Manchuria was for a time to a greater or less extent within the Chinese domains. Korea and the Liu Ch'iu (Ryu Kyu) islands recognized Hung Wu's suzerainty, and embassies were received from Burma and Nepal. Not content with expelling the Mongols from south of the Great Wall, Hung Wu carried the war into their own territory. Twice during his reign a Chinese army reached the ancient Mongol capital, Karakorum. He appears to have considered himself the legitimate successor of the Mongol Grand Khans who had ruled from

Cambaluc, and as such sought to extend his sway over their former possessions in the West. His forces took at least one of the oases in that region, Hami, and his envoys obtained the acceptance of his suzerainty by several other centers in what is now the New Dominion.

When, however, Ming emissaries crossed the mountains to Samarkand, they met with a far different reception. In this region they found the truculent and energetic Tamerlane building a new empire out of some of the fragments of Mongol power and were imprisoned. In the course of time they were released, and Tamerlane and the Ming exchanged several embassies—the Chi-